(vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments in conservation and development of forest resources.

Environmental clearance to irrigation projects of UP

4703. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh, pending for clearance with Government at present, district-wise;

(b) the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when all the irrigation projects likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER. OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (C) No irrigation project of Uttar Pradesh is pending for environmental clearance. Only one irrigation project involving 19.171 ha. of forest land for Basti Branch Canal Alignment Km 42.0 to 72.0 under Saryu canal project of Balrampur district of Uttar Pradesh is pending for forestry clearance for want of certain essential information from the State Government.

Progress in Ganga Action Plan

4704. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in implementation of Ganga Action Plan and the scheme-wise and phase-wise expenditure thereon;

(b) how far the implementation is still behind the schedule; and

(c) the steps being taken to complete the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Ganga Action Plan has been taken up in two phases. The Ganga Action Plan Phase I was launched in

1985 with the objective of preventing the pollution of river Ganga and to improve its water quality. The Plan was completed on 31.03.2000. Against a target capacity of 873 million litres per day planned for treatment of waste water, a capacity to treat 865 million litres per day has been created. Out of an approved cost of Rs. 462.04 crore, an amount of Rs. 451.70 crore has been spent on the Plan.

The Ganga Action Plan Phase II that covers Ganga and its triubutaries *viz.,* Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar was approved in phases between 1993 and 1996 and is under implementation. Under this Plan, against a target capacity of 1860 million litre per day for treatment of waste water a capacity to treat 724 million litres per day has been created so far. Out of the approved cost of 1498.86 crore, an amount of about Rs 610 crore has been spent so far. Regular interaction with the concerned State Governments/ implementing agencies by way of holding periodic meetings, field visits and monitoring of progress of works is done for timely completion of the Plan, by December 2005.

Making steel plant eco-f riendly

4705. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI P. PRABHKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, besides production of steel, is doing examplary work in growing trees all around the compound sheltering rare birds and wild animals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of 22000 acres of land allotted to the Plant, 8000 acres of land has been turned out in green area by the Officials;

(c) if so, what is the position regarding other National Steel Plants for making their area green; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to-make all the steel plants eco-friendly?